

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /076 W
-----032920 300434Z /70

R 291732Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3697
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 37879

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: VN, SN
SUBJECT: SINGAPORE RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM

1. THE SINGAPORE CHARGE IN PARIS (AZIZ) SAID THAT HE HAD RECEIVED A REPORT FROM A COLLEAGUE WHO SERVED AS INTERPRETER OF THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN HIS FOREIGN MINISTER AND A VIETNAMESE REPRESENTATIVE (AMBASSADOR IN KUALA LUMPUR) PROTESTING THE SINGAPORE HANDLING OF THE VIETNAMESE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE HIJACKING. THE CONVERSATION BECAME VERY HEATED AND THE VIETNAMESE BEGAN TO SHOUT AND ABUSE THE SINGAPORE FM AND HIS GOVERNMENT. FINALLY THE MINISTER, WHO IS A USUALLY A VERY SELF-CONTROLLED PERSON, LOST HIS TEMPER AND REPLIED WITH VIGOR AND ENDED BY TELLING THE VIETNAMESE THAT HE SHOULD BE ON THE NEXT PLANE LEAVING SINGAPORE. THE CHARGE HERE THOUGHT THAT THIS STORMY INTERVIEW MIGHT AFFECT HIS RELATIONS WITH THE VIETNAMESE HERE, BUT THE SRV AMBASSADOR, VO VAN SUNG, HAS CONTINUED TO BE VERY CORDIAL AND "JOKING". THE FOREIGN MINISTER,
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HOWEVER, IS STILL ANNOYED WITH THE VIETNAMESE LACK OF MANNERS.

2. AZIZ NOTED THAT THE VIETNAMESE HAD OFTEN BEEN VERY CLUMSY IN THEIR HANDLING OF HIS GOVERNMENT, AND HE THOUGHT THAT THE MALAYSIANS, WHO HAD MORE FREQUENT ACCESS TO THE VIETNAMESE, WERE ATTEMPTING

TO EDUCATE THE VIETNAMESE ON HOW TO HANDLE ALL THE
ASEAN COUNTRIES.
HARTMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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